

## United States Postal Service

## § 954.5

unless that period is extended by the Judicial Officer. During this holding period, the appellant may apply for the withdrawal of the matter. If any such application is made, the General Counsel shall be given notice and the opportunity to oppose the application. Upon the expiration of the holding period with no application having been made, the Judicial Officer shall order that the matter be disposed of in accordance with 39 U.S.C. 3001(b). If a timely application is made, the Judicial Officer shall consider the application and any reasons advanced by the General Counsel for denying the application. The Judicial Officer shall thereafter order either that the matter be returned to the applicant or that it be disposed of in accordance with 39 U.S.C. 3001(b).

### § 953.17 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(4), 556(d), and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

## PART 954—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE DENIAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION OF PERIODICALS MAIL PRIVILEGES

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

### § 954.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

### § 954.2 Scope of rules.

The rules of practice shall apply to all Postal Service proceedings concerning applications, denials, suspensions and revocations of Periodicals mailing privileges arising under former title 39 U.S.C. 4351, 4352, 4353, 4354, 4355, 4356, and 4369 as continued by sec. 3 of the Postal Reorganization Act (Pub. L. 91-375).

[36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, as amended at 62 FR 66998, Dec. 23, 1997]

### § 954.3 Informal dispositions.

These rules do not preclude the informal dispositions of Periodicals mailing privilege matters before or after institution of proceedings.

[36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, as amended at 62 FR 66998, Dec. 23, 1997]

### § 954.4 Office business hours.

The offices of the officials mentioned in these rules are located at the U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260, and are open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

[38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 7955, Feb. 8, 1977]

### § 954.5 Application.

A publisher may file an application for Periodicals mailing privileges. (See §E213 of the Domestic Mail Manual.) An authorized administrative official of the Postal Service (hereinafter called "the authorized official") rules upon all applications. If he or she denies the application he or she shall notify the publisher specifying the reasons for his or her denial and attaching a copy of these rules. Before taking action on an application, the authorized official may call upon the publisher for additional information or evidence to